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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Fifth session
7-25 April 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.

4. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

5. Other matters.

6. Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifth session.

Annotations

Item 1. Election of officers

1. Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1) provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman and such other officers as may be required. At the first to fourth sessions, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom served also as Rapporteur.

2. The membership of the Commission in 1997 is given in annex II below.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

4. In decision 1996/231, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fourth session and endorsed the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission.

Item 3. Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests

5. At its third session, the Commission decided to establish an open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, composed of representatives of Governments, to pursue consensus and formulation of coordinated proposals for action on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, particularly by Governments, assessing action already undertaken to combat deforestation and forest degradation and promoting management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, including environmental and socio-economic impacts. The Panel held its first (organizational) session from 11 to 15 September 1995, its second session from 11 to 22 March 1996, its third session from 9 to 20 September 1996 and its fourth session from 11 to 21 February 1997. The Panel's final report will be before the Commission at its present session.

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its fourth session (E/CN.17/1997/12)

Item 4. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

6. In resolution 51/181, the General Assembly, recalling its resolution 47/190, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, and reaffirming its resolution 50/113 as the agreed basis that determines the modalities for the preparations for the special session, including the relevant role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council mandated to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the role of other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, decided to convene the special session envisaged in its resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week, from 23 to 27 June 1997, at the highest political level of participation.

7. The Assembly also decided that the Commission on Sustainable Development would devote its fifth session, to be held from 7 to 25 April 1997 as a negotiating meeting, to final preparations for the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the overall progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (E/CN.17/1997/2 and Add.1-31)

Report of the Secretary-General on global change and sustainable development: critical trends (E/CN.17/1997/3 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on an assessment of activities that pose a major threat to the environment (E/CN.17/1997/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on an assessment of progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level (E/CN.17/1997/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on an inventory of ongoing energy-related programmes and activities of entities within the United Nations system, on coordination of such activities and on arrangements needed to foster the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the system (E/CN.17/1997/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development: application and implementation (E/CN.17/1997/8)

Report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive assessment of the freshwater resources of the world (E/CN.17/1997/9)

Report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development on its sixth session (E/CN.17/1997/10)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biodiversity on the implementation of the Convention (E/CN.17/1997/11)

Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (E/CN.17/1997/12)

Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission (E/CN.17/1997/13)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1997/14)

Report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development on its seventh session (E/CN.17/1997/17 and Add.1)

Item 5. Other matters

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for the streamlining of national reporting requirements (E/CN.17/1997/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1997/14)

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work of the Division for Sustainable Development for the biennium 1998-1999 (E/CN.17/1997/CRP.1)

Item 6. Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Commission

8. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's forthcoming session, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current session.

Item 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifth session

9. In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The proposed organization of work for the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been drawn up on the basis of the decisions taken by the Commission at its organizational session and on informal consultations conducted by the Chairman with the Bureau.

Week of 7-11 April*

Tuesday, 8 April		Opening of the session
a.m.	Item 1	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	Items 3 and 4	High-level segment:
		Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
		Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21
p.m.	Items 3 and 4	(High-level segment continued)
Wednesday, 9 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Items 3 and 4	(High-level segment continued)
Thursday, 10 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Items 3 and 4	(High-level segment continued)
Friday, 11 April		
a.m.	Item 4	Presentations regarding preparations for the special session of the General Assembly
p.m.	Item 5	Other matters

* No meetings will be held on Monday, 7 April.

WORKING GROUP (parallel)		
a.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Children and youth)
p.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Scientific and technological communities)
Week of 14-18 April*		
Monday, 14 April		
WORKING GROUP (parallel)		
a.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Women)
p.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Workers and trade unions)
DRAFTING GROUP (parallel)		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 4	Negotiations on the final draft text
Tuesday, 15 April		
WORKING GROUP (parallel)		
a.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Indigenous peoples)
p.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Non-governmental organizations)
DRAFTING GROUP (parallel)		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 4	Negotiations on the final draft text
Wednesday, 16 April		
WORKING GROUP (parallel)		
a.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Local authorities)
p.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Farmers)

* There will be no meeting on Thursday, 17 April, in view of the Islamic holiday of Eid Al Adha.

DRAFTING GROUP (parallel)		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 4	Negotiations on the final draft text
Friday, 18 April		
WORKING GROUP (parallel)		
a.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Business and industry)
p.m.		Dialogue session with major groups (Synthesis session)
DRAFTING GROUP (parallel)		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 4	Negotiations on the final draft text
Week of 21-25 April*		
Monday, 21 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Tuesday, 22 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Wednesday, 23 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Thursday, 24 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Friday, 25 April		
a.m.	Item 5	Other matters
p.m.	Item 6	Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Commission
	Item 7	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifth session

* The work will be divided between either two or three drafting groups, on the understanding that no more than two will meet simultaneously.

Annex II

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN 1997

(53 members; three-year term)

	Term expires on 31 December
Antigua and Barbuda	1998
Australia	1997
Bahamas	1997
Bangladesh	1997
Belgium	1998
Benin	1998
Bolivia	1998
Brazil	1997
Bulgaria	1999
Burundi	1997
Canada	1999
Central African Republic	1998
China	1998
Colombia	1998
Djibouti	1999
Egypt	1999
Ethiopia	1997
Finland	1997
France	1997
Gabon	1998
Germany	1998
Ghana	1997
Guyana	1998
Hungary	1997
India	1999
Indonesia	1999
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1997
Ireland	1999
Japan	1999
Mexico	1999
Mozambique	1998
Netherlands	1998
Niger	1999
Pakistan	1998
Panama	1999
Papua New Guinea	1997
Peru	1997
Philippines	1997
Poland	1998
Russian Federation	1998
Saudi Arabia	1998

	Term expires on 31 December
Senegal	1997
Slovakia	1999
Spain	1997
Sudan	1999
Sweden	1998
Switzerland	1998
Thailand	1998
Ukraine	1997
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1999
United States of America	1999
Venezuela	1999
Zimbabwe	1998